

The Unexpected Jesus: Disappointment with Self

March 25, 2012

LUKE 22:31-34; JOHN 21:2-19

Vol. 2 Num. 13

Core Competency:

Single-mindedness- I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. (Matthew 6:33)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

Peering through the dark, Peter suppresses his heavy breathing and listens intently at the voices coming from the garden. Shadows dance at the top of the hill where the flickering torches of the temple police prepare to take the bound Jesus back to the temple area. Indistinctly, a short distance away and to his right, Peter hears the two guards that chased him a couple of hundred feet into night as he and the other disciples scattered. Giving up, the guards now turn back up the hill to rejoin the mob that are slowly making their way towards the Kidron Valley with Jesus in tow. Breathing more slowly now, the disciple collapses down at the base of a large olive tree and glances around, hoping to notice John or Andrew nearby.

Attempting to make sense of the last few moments Peter incredulously ponders to himself “Why didn’t the

master resist, or fight back?”

Peter was prepared to fight to the death for the Messiah. In fact, only a few hours earlier Peter and the rest of the disciples assured the Master that they would never forsake Him. After all, in light of all the miracles Jesus did, in light of the authority He exercised over sickness, demons, and even the dead, nothing could stop Him. In light of all that, Peter was ready to follow Him anywhere... but something unexpected happened when Peter took the initiative with the knife hidden in his cloak. Jesus did not fight back. Instead of exerting His power and authority to discharge the Romans and inaugurate a new kingdom, Jesus openly chastised Peter, healed Malchus’ ear, and just let them take Him away. Peter and the other disciples fled for their lives, unwilling to follow Jesus as He submits His hands and feet to the shackles.

Looking down, Peter makes out in the dim light dark stains on his hand and sleeve. A quick check confirms that the source of the blood was not from an injury he sustained—it must be blood from Malchus.

Sensing movement, Peter spots John a few meters away. “John!” Peter whispered loudly. The other disciple stops short and makes his way to Peter, scrunching low to the ground. “They are taking Him to Caiaphas.” John breathed, falling back against the tree and wiping the sweat of his nose. “Let’s follow Him.” Peter urges. “You can get us in.”

“Disappointment is what happens when our expectations conflict with the perception of experience.”

This Week

What happens when the confidence or expectations we have about our own spiritual stability, resolve, and courage eventually comes in conflict with reality? At some point in our walk with Christ, we will probably fail Christ in some way we never expected. Learn this week insights into Jesus’ desire for restoration and how he lifts up those who fail.

1 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Read Luke 22:31-34

31 “Simon, Simon, look out! Satan has asked to sift you like wheat.
32 But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”
33 “Lord,” he told Him, “I’m ready to go with You both to prison and to death!”
34 “I tell you, Peter,” He said, “the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know Me!”

Read John 21: 2-19

2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of His disciples were together.
3 “I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter said to them. “We’re coming with you,” they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
4 When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore. However, the disciples did not know it was Jesus.
5 “Men,” Jesus called to them, “you don’t have any fish, do you?” “No,” they answered.
6 “Cast the net on the right side of the boat,” He told them, “and you’ll find some.” So they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish.
7 Therefore the disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer garment around him (for he was stripped) and plunged into the sea.
8 But since they were not far from land (about 100 yards away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.
9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire

there, with fish lying on it, and bread.
10 “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus told them.
11 So Simon Peter got up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.
12 “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” because they knew it was the Lord.
13 Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish.
14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.
15 When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Feed My lambs,” He told him.
16 A second time He asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” “Yes, Lord,” he said to Him, “You know that I love You.” “Shepherd My sheep,” He told him.
17 He asked him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You.” “Feed My sheep,” Jesus said.
18 “I assure you: When you were young, you would tie your belt and walk wherever you wanted. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you and carry you where you don’t want to go.”
19 He said this to signify by what kind of death he would glorify God. After saying this, He told him, “Follow Me!”

Notes

(22:31) **“has asked”**- to ask for something and to receive what one has asked for—‘to ask for with success, to ask and to receive.’

(22:31) **“you”** – This is plural in Greek denoting that Satan had asked to sift them all.

(21:1) **“Tiberias”**- This is the Lake of Galilee.

(21:9) **“charcoal”**- word last used when Peter denied the Lord at a charcoal fire (John 18:18).

(21: 9, 10) **“fish”**- (lit.) cooked meat, a different word to vv. 6, 8; it denotes a dainty delicacy of little fish (Vine, 445). Jesus gave them the best!

(21:15-17) **“Simon”**- In dealing with Peter in this section, Jesus reverted to his original name ‘Simon’ (which means ‘the waverer’) instead of the name Jesus had given him, ‘Peter’ (which means ‘the steadfast rock’).

②EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Why do you think Jesus allowed Satan access to the disciples?

2. Read John 21:1-8 and then compare it with a very similar episode in Luke 5:4-11 where Jesus first called the disciples.
 - a) What message do these miracles communicate to the disciples?

 - b) What benefit would the repetition of this miracle potentially have on the disciples at time (after the resurrection)? In other words, what reasons would Jesus have for repeating this miracle here to the disciples after His resurrection?

3. Peter denied Jesus three times. How could Jesus' three questions to Peter about love contribute to Peter's restoration (vv.15-17)?

4. What goal would Jesus have for addressing him as "Simon" instead of "Peter" in this exchange (vv. 15-17; review the notes)?

5. Why did Jesus go through this process of restoring Peter publicly?

③EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

6. Why does God allow Satan access to His followers?

7. Share a time in which you think Satan was allowed access to you:

8. Explain one benefit from that that experience and how it has made you a stronger disciple:

9. How does the knowledge that Jesus knows when and where you will fail comfort you?

10. What response/actions to Him and others does Jesus desire after your failure?

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.